

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 822

By Fraley

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mr. Wiley Northcutt on the celebration of his 100th birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wiley Northcutt celebrated his 100th birthday on May 30, 2000, a milestone that was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Wiley Northcutt was born on May 30, 1900, and was raised in the southern part of Franklin County near Beans Creek; and

WHEREAS, he grew up in a log cabin that still stands today; the cabin was built by and was THE home of the large Northcutt family, which consisted of seven brothers and three sisters; and

WHEREAS, he learned the value of hard work at a young age; Mr. Northcutt started plowing fields when he was nine years old; and

WHEREAS, by the time he reached the age of fourteen, Wiley Northcutt was helping build barns on area farms; incredibly, the last barn he built was in 1983, at the age of 83; and

WHEREAS, in 1918, at the age of 18, Mr. Northcutt was joined in marriage with Mattie Lee Holman and the couple's blessed union produced nine children, Nelda, Jimmy Ruth, Gerlene, Ray, J.W., Thurman, Mary Jean, Mildred, and Nannie Lee; and

WHEREAS, this fine couple shared 69 blissful years together before Mrs. Northcutt's death, raising their family and facing both life's joys and sorrows as one; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Northcutt is the proud grandfather of 11 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, throughout the Great Depression and the wars that shocked this century, Mr. Northcutt dedicated his time and efforts to a variety of jobs; and

WHEREAS, Wiley Northcutt served with acumen and alacrity as a bridge builder, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and supervisors alike for the superior quality of his work; he built bridges in Louisiana, Florida, and Georgia; and

WHEREAS, farming has always been his true love; he was a committed apiarist and raised bees for 40 years and his honey was acclaimed throughout Franklin County; and

WHEREAS, Wiley Northcutt, at the age of 36, moved to the 125-acre farm where he lives today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Northcutt lost 50 acres of his farm when Tims Ford Lake was created; living by the lake has made Mr. Northcutt an avid fisherman; he still enjoys fishing and advocates gardening as a way of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Northcutt is a highly respected member of the Winchester community; as he enters his 11th decade, he is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events; and

WHEREAS, his youthful spirit and amazing vitality are evident in his many daily activities; he still drives his car, takes walks, mows his yard, gardens, and fishes; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2000, nearly 300 friends, family and relatives gathered together to celebrate Mr. Northcutt's birthday at the Estill Springs Church of Christ; those in

attendance traveled from across North America, including the states of Connecticut, Oklahoma, Texas, California, Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee, and Winnipeg, Canada; and

WHEREAS, we wish to take this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Mr. Wiley Northcutt on the celebration of his 100th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.